

REMARKS

The applicant has the following comments on the reasons for allowance which accompanied the Notice of Allowance dated September 20, 2006.

Attached to the Notice of Allowability are reasons for allowance. The reasons for allowance are objected to because they could be read to include contradictory statements. For example, in the first paragraph under the subtitle "Reasons for Allowance", the Examiner states what the prior art does not show, either alone or in combination, a number of elements and "associated method, in combination with the rest of respective Claim 1, 12, 20, or 24."

The applicant's problem with this statement is that the Examiner seems to be mixing apparatus and method elements and, moreover, because the Examiner recites elements at this point in the discussion which do not necessarily occur in each and every claim. Indeed, some of the language which the Examiner used appears to come from Claim 1 whereas other language appears to come from Claim 12 and still other language appears to come from at least Claim 20.

Since this application includes four independent claims, which are not identically written, it is believed that the Examiner must have had four different reasons for allowing these claims. However, the Examiner's comments in the first paragraph under the subtitle "Reasons for Allowance" does not make it particularly clear why the Examiner allowed any one of the independent claims.

The next paragraph, when the Examiner states that "it is noted that each of Claim 1, 12, 20 or 24 is allowable because of the unique combination of each and every specific element stated in each said claim suggests that the Examiner allowed Claim 1 because of the specific elements recited by Claim 1, allowed Claim 12 because of the specific elements recited in that claim, allowed Claim 20 because of the specific elements recited in that claim and then allowed Claim 20 due to the specific elements recited therein.

The applicant has no difficulty with the Examiner indicating that the Examiner allowed Claim 1 due to some specific element found in Claim 1. The trouble with the

applicant is when the Examiner's comments sound like or could be interpreted as saying that Claim 1 was allowed because of an element found in Claim 20 which is not specifically recited in Claim 1. As such, the applicant objects to any reasons for allowance which could be interpreted as reading additional limitations into the claims beyond those specifically recited in the claims.

For these reasons, the applicant objects to the Reasons for Allowance to the extent that they can be construed as requiring additional limitations beyond those specifically recited in each allowed claim.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to issue new reasons for allowance in which each claim is separately addressed and if the Examiner feels the need to refer to any specific limitation in any claim, the Examiner is respectfully requested to quote the language of the claim verbatim.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

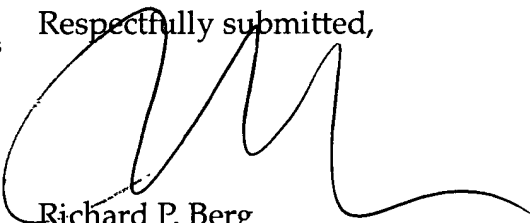
07 November 2006
(Date of Deposit)

Mary Ngo
(Name of Person Depositing)


(Signature)

07 November 2006
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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